

the NCA after January 1, 1999. If the Secretary withdraws the land, all lands and minerals within the NCA will be available for mineral leasing, under the Mineral Leasing Act. Language in the legislation specifies that the establishment of the NCA will not affect the value of subsurface mineral rights.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also requires the Secretary to develop and implement forest restoration projects and provide alternative grazing allotments to permittees affected by restoration projects. The legislation places a three years time limit on the amount of time a restoration project may impact grazing allotment. Current methods used to control plant growth will continue to be permitted in the Shivwits NCA.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, water rights are a source of contention in the West, and I have ensured in my bill that existing water rights within the NCA are not affected by this designation and that no new water rights will be created.

The bill also places requirements on the Secretary to improve and maintain specified roads, within the NCA, as all-weather roads. The Secretary is also required to conduct a survey of the conservation area, noting all sites of archaeological, historical or scientific interest.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also initiates a framework necessary for local communities to develop the infrastructure to support this conservation area. This bill authorizes the Secretary to implement the recommendations contained in the April 1999 report of the Sonoran Institute. This report detailed three major goals that must be accomplished to ensure the long-term health of the local communities and the surrounding public lands. These three goals include building local and agency capacity for partnerships, building local entrepreneurial capacity and restoring landscape health through local efforts. Finally, this bill conveys to Colorado City, Arizona, Fredonia, Arizona, Mohave County Arizona and the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians certain federal lands needed to handle the increased visitor ship of the Shivwits Plateau.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope, in introducing this legislation, that we send a strong message to the Secretary of the Interior and the President, indicating Congress' desire to work on a legislative proposal to address the needs of the Shivwits Plateau.

#### TRIBUTE TO AMALIA DISTENFELD

#### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 5, 1999*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the inspiring matriarch of an American family. Amalia Distenfeld, Born in Lvov, Poland, in August 1919, came to this country in 1947, to start a new life. She and her husband, the late Dr. Menachem Distenfeld, were among a handful of survivors of two very extensive and well-known families that perished in the Holocaust.

Amalia is living testimony to her own courage and the possibilities of the American

dream. Hard work, coupled with purpose, optimism and an unfailing dedication to family allowed her to see children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren thrive in this country of freedom. She has dedicated her life to promoting educational and moral values that have helped guide and sustain her family.

The same tenacity that allowed Amalia and Menachem to survive the nightmare of the Holocaust enabled this young couple to surmount the struggle of a new beginning in New York, devoid of resources, in a strange environment with three children. Amalia took in boarders, cooked and cleaned for them, while her husband learned the language of their new country, then studied and reestablished himself as a physician. Her strength, her faith in God and her refusal to be crushed by the past, allowed for a quick integration into American life. Amalia worked with Menachem in their Queens, New York, office to establish a medical practice whose hallmark was selfless public service to the community at large, including a great many fellow survivors. Unfortunately, just as life's promises were being realized, she was left a young widow. Without her beloved Menachem, Amalia natural exuberance and steadfast commitment to family has sustained her over the last 33 years. She took on new challenges and new careers of public service, first in the American Heart Association and then the American Lung Association, where she worked well into her late seventies.

Perhaps Amalia's greatest joy is derived from the achievements of her children and grandchildren in areas of education, technology, law, medicine, and business. She cherishes her time with them as they do with her. Mr. Speaker, Amalia is a living lesson of courage, hope and optimism to all who know her. Her children's fidelity to Amalia's religious legacy and their appreciation for America's blessings were learned at her knee.

I ask my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in wishing Amalia Distenfeld good health and happiness on the occasion of her 80th birthday, with many wonderful and blessed years to come.

#### GENE WISNER

#### HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 5, 1999*

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gene Wisner, who will be retiring from the Yorba Linda City Council in California. Mr. Wisner served on the City Council from January 3, 1983 to November 1992 and was elected again in November of 1994. He has twice served his community honorably as Mayor, as well as represented his city: as Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Eastern/Foothill Transportation Corridor Agency; a member of the Budget & Finance Committee on the Transportation Corridor Agency; a members of the City Audit Committee; the League of California Cities; National League of Cities; Orange County Fire Authority; and the Orange County Sanitation District. He also served as city representative to the Yorba Linda Water District and the Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce.

While serving as a member of the City Council, Gene Wisner worked toward many beneficial projects for Yorba Linda including the development of the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace, an expansive city park system, city recreational facilities, the Community Center/Senior Citizen Facility, and the Casa Loma Field House. Mr. Wisner is to be congratulated for his service to the community, not only as a Council Member, but as an active supporter of community groups such as the Boy Scouts of America, the Y.M.C.A. and local youth sports programs.

It is with extreme pleasure that I wish the best for Mr. Wisner in his retirement from the Yorba Linda City Council.

#### CONGRATULATIONS VERA TRINCHERO TORRES

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 5, 1999*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere congratulations to a dear friend, Ms. Vera Trinchero Torres, who has been named the 1999 Citizen of the Year by the St. Helena Chamber of Commerce.

A co-owner of the famous Sutter Home Winery and mother of two, Vera dedicates most of her free time to charitable work for the community of the Napa Valley.

Although a New Yorker by birth, Vera moved to the Napa Valley at age ten and has been a resident of the area ever since. As a child, she and her older brother, Bob, helped out in the winery after school and on weekends. Vera worked on the bottling line and swept up, all the while looking after her little brother, Roger.

After graduating from St. Helena High School, Vera began a 24-year career as a legal secretary. In fact, I'm proud to say she was the mainstay in the law office of my uncle, former Judge Lowell Palmer. In 1979, as Sutter Home began its transformation from a small mom-and-pop operation to a large, modern winery, Vera took on the responsibility of running the office full-time.

Today, Vera oversees company profit sharing and pension plans for Sutter Home's 450 employees and serves as the family-run corporation's secretary. She also manages the company's extensive charitable activities, which amount to several hundred thousand dollars each year. In addition, Vera is an active supporter of numerous local youth groups, including the St. Helena Boys and Girls Club.

In 1996, in recognition of her philanthropic efforts and service to the community, Vera was named, by me, Woman of the Year for the 2nd District of the California State Senate.

The St. Helena Citizen of the Year Award is one more honor of many to come for this wonderful neighbor, great friend, and tremendous asset to our community.

Once again, I offer my congratulations to Vera and to her family.